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Mr. Arthur W. Farmer
Chief Benefits Director
Department of Veterans Benefits
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20420

Dear Mr. Farmer:

The Department of State is now in the process of computing the amounts of compensation to be claimed from the Government of Israel on behalf of the crew members of the U.S.S. Liberty who suffered personal injuries in the Israeli attack on that ship on June 8, 1967. On the basis of information now available to us, which in some cases is incomplete because medical treatment has not yet been concluded, it appears that a limited number of cases - at least six but probably not as many as thirty - involve permanent impairment of earning capacity. The purpose of this letter is to solicit the advice of the Veterans Administration as to the percentage of permanent impairment which we should use in our legal formula for computing loss of earnings in this limited number of cases.

Use of the Veterans Administration schedule for rating disabilities in computing the compensation to be claimed from the Government of Israel would have obvious advantages. In view of the authoritative nature of the schedule, its use would result in the most accurate possible evaluation of the losses incurred by the claimants. Moreover, its use would avoid the feelings on the part of the claimants that they had been unfairly treated, which would arise if the Department were to rate the claimants' disabilities at a significantly different percentage than that used by the Veterans Administration in connection with present or future benefits.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Informal discussions between Dr. Muilenberg, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. Macomber of the Veterans Administration and members of the Department's Legal Adviser's Office suggest that an informal procedure for consultation on this matter might well be feasible. I hope you would be agreeable to such a procedure.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard C. Meeker
The Legal Adviser

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